

**8TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
2 MARCH 2014**



St. Columban Parish

36 Fourth St. West, Cornwall, ON K6J 2R6

Masses: Sat Vigil: 7 p.m., Sun: 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.,

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Today's Readings:

Isaiah 49:14-15
Psalm 62:2-3, 6-9
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34

The Problem of Evil:
We are free to choose
to act with God or to act
against God.

**Further Reflection
from the Catechism:**
CCC: 303, 308-309
CCCC: 55, 57
YOUCAT: 49-51

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

In the Old Testament reading today, Zephaniah calls the people of Israel to keep their eyes on God. The prophet stresses the importance of seeking the Lord in all things. His message brings great promise, but it also brings warning. The prophet threatens a "day of the Lord" which will bring down God's wrath upon all evildoers. In Zephaniah's words of promise we hear how the Lord will protect the people who, by their actions, prove themselves faithful to God. Today's passage gives God's people guidance so that they may live a moral life.

In today's Gospel Jesus goes to the mountaintop to teach about true happiness. With this setting Matthew portrays Jesus as the new Moses, giving the people the new commandments from the mountaintop.

A KEY THEME:

Christian morality is based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and the living witness of a community of believers. For Catholic Christians living a moral life goes beyond following laws. Love for God and a desire to please God motivates us to make good and loving choices.

THINKING ABOUT IT

To determine the morality of our actions we look at three things. The object of our act; what we choose to do, the intention; why we choose to do what we do; and the circumstances; the how, who, when and where of the act. For an action to be judged as morally good these three elements must be determined as good.

We are free to choose either good or evil. The Beatitudes show us that true happiness is found in our life with God. We are blessed with God's Spirit to help us choose to live our lives as followers of Jesus.

Every believer bears the responsibility of informing his or her own conscience in order to act rightly and justly in the world. Various elements assist the believer in forming conscience. Good preaching, sound religious education, an understanding of Scripture, spiritual direction, the witness and example of other Christians, and the authoritative teaching of the Church help to form one's conscience. This formation is a lifelong process wherein the believer sifts through experience and with the grace of the Holy Spirit pursues the path of right (CCC 1785). Staying on the path of right, one avoids the way of sin.



THE GOSPEL IN LIFE

How can you make a good moral choice this week?

Excerpted from RCL Benziger Lectionary Resources



PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Dan VanDelst, Pastor
Rev. Mr. Marcel Brunet, Deacon

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Kelly Poitras

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Evenings by appointment

BAPTISMS

By appointment
1 month in advance

MARRIAGES

Please give 6 months notice

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.
Also by appointment

OFFICE PHONE

613-932-9616

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS

stcolumban@alexandria-cornwall.ca

WEBSITES

PARISH FOUNDATION
www.stcolumbans.com
DIOCESE
www.alexandria-cornwall.ca

**FOR TIMELY PUBLICATION, PLEASE
E-MAIL BULLETIN NOTICES TO
stcolumbanbulletin@sympatico.ca
BY 4 P.M. FRIDAY
(ONE WEEK PRIOR TO REQUIRED
WEEKEND PUBLICATION)**

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Saturday, March 1st

7:00 – 7:25 a.m. Confessions
 8:00 a.m. Special Intention for Fr. Celestine Agwu by a parishioner
 10 a.m.-12 Parish Gathering – 4 Signs of a Dynamic Catholic
 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Confessions
 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Confessions
 7:00 p.m. Yvon David (2nd Anniv of death) by wife Rose David

Sunday, March 2nd

7:30 a.m. Intentions of parishioners
 9:30 a.m. James McLaverty by John and Janice Meyer
 11:00 a.m. Pauline Boileau (29th Anv. of death) by Gilles & Diane Lafrance

Monday, March 3rd

7:30 a.m. John Sampson by Chris and Pauline Chisholm

Tuesday, March 04th

7:30 a.m. Harold Jakes by Bernadette Surgeson
 5:10 p.m. Shrove Tuesday – Prayer Service

Ash Wednesday, March 5th

7:30 a.m. Augustina Agwu by Doug & Jane Anderson & Ashwini Joseph
 8:45 a.m. St. Columban School Ash Wednesday Service
 12:10 p.m. Lisa Watson by Darleen Belanger

Thursday, March 6th

7:30 a.m. Bernie Turgeon by Lisa & David Herjavec
 12:10 p.m. Jeannine Shane by Roger & Germaine Stang

Friday, March 7th

7:30 a.m. Cyril Dumond by wife Viola & family
 8:00 a.m. Holy Hour – Eucharistic Adoration
 2:00 p.m. Women's World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service

Saturday, March 8th

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Confessions
 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Confessions
 7:00 p.m. George & Carmel Belmore by the family

Sunday, March 9th

7:30 a.m. Intentions of parishioners
 9:30 a.m. Duncan McLennan by daughter Jean
 11:00 a.m. Rene Provost by Maurice Provost & family
 12:30 p.m. Baptisms

Monday, March 10th

7:30 a.m. Mathias Valade by wife Meriza & family

HOLY HOUR, 8 A.M., FRIDAY, 7 MARCH

After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and a time of adoration, prayer, Scripture and meditation will follow. The hour closes with Benediction.



BECAME CHILDREN OF GOD THROUGH BAPTISM

Kaylee Taillon and Lukas Restinetti-Poitras were baptised here last weekend.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – LENTEN FOOD DRIVE WEEKEND 8-9 MARCH – PLEASE DONATE BREAKFAST CEREALS

PARISH CUSTODIAN REQUIRED – APPLY BY 14 MARCH

Work involves cleaning and general maintenance of parish buildings & property which includes the church, rectory, rectory garage & activity center (a room on the 2nd floor of the Agape Centre). Job description available from the office. Hours of work 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (25 hours per week), Mon. to Fri. Start 19 May.

IN OUR PARISH

COLLECTION – 16 FEBRUARY – THANK YOU

Sunday	\$3,944.00	Initial	\$ 5.00
Loose	435.24	New Year's	45.00
Total	\$4,379.24	Candles	173.98
Flowers	\$ 29.00	Book Table	14.75

SHROVE TUESDAY, 4 MARCH – PRAYER SERVICE

Will be held at 5:10 p.m. in the Church – includes the putting away of the 'Alleluia' which will not be said or sung during the season of Lent. Everyone welcome.

ASH WEDNESDAY, A DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE.

Masses at 7:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES DURING LENT

7:30 a.m. Mon. to Fri. / 12:10 p.m., Tues. and Thurs.

LENTEN STUDY – “THE GOSPEL OF JOY”

Father Dan will take us on a journey through Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation “The Gospel of Joy”.

7 P.M. TUESDAYS, MARCH 11, 18 & 25TH – UPPER ROOM

You can purchase a copy of the document from our parish book table or download it from www.vatican.va

LENTEN CROSS

Lent is a time for reflection, sharing & prayer. Members of the Catholic Women's League have prepared purple crosses that will be available at the doors of our church every weekend Mass throughout Lent *beginning March 8 & 9*. Adults are invited to wear a cross for one week to symbolize the bearing of your own cross. Each weekend, return your cross to the basket & exchange it for another & simply pray for the other person's cross. No names will be exchanged. All crosses are to be returned to the basket on Palm Sunday, April 12/13. No crosses are to be worn through Holy Week as we thank Jesus for the cross He carried for us.

ADOPT-A-CANDIDATE – REMINDER

that a card is due on 9 March ensuring your child that you are praying for her or him in a special way during Lent. May God bless you for your prayers in this outreach to children.

4 SIGNS – 4 WEEKS

Do you have questions or ideas you want to discuss concerning Matthew Kelly's book "*4 Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*"? If you are interested in being part of a *small group* aiming to take a deeper look at the book & how it impacts your life, call Rick and Bernadette at 613-932-2872. The group will meet for 4 weeks beginning **THURS, 6 MARCH AT 7 P.M.**

REST IN THE PEACE AND LOVE OF THE LORD

Donald Mertes, Angelina Besaw and all who have died.

AGES 18 TO 30 – INVITATION TO BRUNCH

In the Parish Activity Centre, 2nd Floor, Agape Bldg.,
THIS SUNDAY, 2 MARCH – AFTER THE 11 A.M. MASS

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 297 will host a
CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER – SUNDAY, 6 APRIL
for Patrons of St. Columban Foundation
 Proceeds for restoration of our historic St. Columban's Church
 Tickets \$10. available at the office (during office hours)

IN THE PARISH AND DIOCESE

DYNAMIC CATHOLICS EVANGELIZE BY EXAMPLE

A Dynamic Catholic understands that true happiness comes from maintaining a close relationship with God and uses all opportunities to testify to it by words, gestures, actions & attitudes.

St. Columban's Catholic Women's League
Members are invited to a Pancake Supper at 6 p.m. prior to the
GENERAL MEETING AT 7 P.M., TUESDAY, 4 MARCH

St. Columban's Catholic Women's League
ST. PATRICK'S DAY TEA AND BAKE SALE – SAT. 15 MARCH
In the Parish Activity Centre. See next week's bulletin for details

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – ANNUAL ECUMENICAL SERVICE 2 P.M. FRIDAY, 7 MARCH – ST. COLUMBAN'S CHURCH

This year's program was written by the women of Egypt and is entitled "Streams in the Desert". Everyone is invited to come and pray for and with the people of Egypt. A reception and fellowship time will follow in the Parish Activity Centre (Upstairs Agape Bldg)

ARE YOU READY TO EVANGELIZE? SPECIAL WORKSHOP
at the Agora Centre, by Michael Dopp. Learn to tell HIS story...
and your story. **1:30 TO 3:30 P.M., MONDAY, 3 MARCH**

LENTEN MISSION 3-4-5 MARCH / WANT JOY? FOLLOW JESUS.
7 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Parish. Michael Dopp of Mission of the Redeemer Ministries ties in ideas from "DYNAMIC CATHOLIC".

Knights of Columbus, 205 Amelia St.
BREAKFAST, BUFFET STYLE, 9 TO 12:30, SUNDAY, 2 MARCH
\$7/person, free under age 6
SPAGHETTI SUPPER, 4:30 TO 6:30 P.M., SUNDAY, 9 MARCH
\$8/adult; free under age 12; take-out orders available.

WEEKDAY LENTEN MASSES IN OUR ENGLISH PARISHES

ASH WEDNESDAY	Blessed Sacrament	8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
5 MARCH	St. Columban	7:30 a.m. & 12:10 p.m.
	St. Francis	8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
	St. Peter	8:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

BL.SACRAMENT Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8 a.m. / Wed. 7 p.m.

ST.COLUMBAN Mon. to Fri. 7:30 a.m. / Tues. & Thurs. 12:10 p.m.

ST. FRANCIS Tues. to Fri. 8 a.m. – No evening Mass

ST. PETER Mon. to Fri. 8 a.m. / Mon. & Wed. 6:30 p.m.

LENTEN MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

Vatican City, 4 February 2014 (VIS)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some helpful thoughts on our path of conversion as individuals and as a community. These insights are inspired by the words of St. Paul: 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich'. The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of St. Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean to us today?

LENTEN MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS (CONTINUED)

CHRIST'S GRACE - First of all, it shows us how God works. He does not reveal Himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: 'though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor ...'. Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and glory, chose to be poor; He came amongst us and drew near to each of us; He set aside His glory and emptied Himself so that He could be like us in all things. God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is His love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved. Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us. Indeed, Jesus 'worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, He truly became one of us, like us in all things except sin'. By making Himself poor, Jesus did not seek poverty for its own sake but, as St. Paul says 'that by His poverty you might become rich'. This is no mere play on words or a catch phrase. Rather, it sums up God's logic, the logic of love, the logic of the incarnation and the cross. God did not let our salvation drop down from heaven, like someone who gives alms from their abundance out of a sense of altruism and piety. Christ's love is different! When Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan and was baptised by John the Baptist, He did so not because He was in need of repentance, or conversion; He did it to be among people who need forgiveness, among us sinners, and to take upon Himself the burden of our sins. In this way He chose to comfort us, to save us, to free us from our misery. It is striking that the Apostle states that we were set free, not by Christ's riches but by His poverty. Yet St. Paul is well aware of the 'the unsearchable riches of Christ', that He is 'heir of all things'. So what is this poverty by which Christ frees us and enriches us? It is His way of loving us, His way of being our neighbour, just as the Good Samaritan was neighbour to the man left half dead by the side of the road. What gives us true freedom, true salvation and true happiness is the compassion, tenderness and solidarity of His love. Christ's poverty which enriches us is His taking flesh and bearing our weaknesses and sins as an expression of God's infinite mercy to us. Christ's poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus' wealth is that of His boundless confidence in God the Father, His constant trust, His desire always and only to do the Father's will and give glory to Him. Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves its parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant. Jesus' wealth lies in His being the Son; His unique relationship with the Father is the sovereign prerogative of this Messiah who is poor. When Jesus asks us to take up His 'yoke which is easy', He asks us to be enriched by His 'poverty which is rich' and His 'richness which is poor', to share His filial and fraternal Spirit, to become sons and daughters in the Son, brothers and sisters in the first-born brother. It has been said that the only real regret lies in not being a saint (L. Bloy); we could also say that there is only one real kind of poverty: not living as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ.



(to be continued in next week's bulletin)

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